

REMARKS

A sole independent Claim 24 is now presented in the application, wherein a feature of the invention is set forth in accordance with the disclosure, for example, in Fig. 2-5 and 12-15B. Specifically, Claim 24 requires an image pickup apparatus including an image pickup element which has a pixel area including two-dimensionally arranged pixels (e.g., 101) and a scanning circuit (e.g., 204), a common amplifier (e.g., 201 in Fig. 5), and has a plurality of processing circuits (e.g., 105-108), and a lens (e.g., 301). In addition, Claim 24 requires that the plurality of processing circuits are arranged so that at least one is arranged along each of opposite sides of the pixel area, and so that each of two processing circuits disposed on opposite sides, is a circuit for performing a predetermined processing for the pixel area or for performing a predetermined processing on a signal output from the common amplifier. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature of the present invention is not taught in any of the cited references to Muramatsu, Bohr, Kochi, Mevers, Park, Hashimoto, Hujii and Makino.

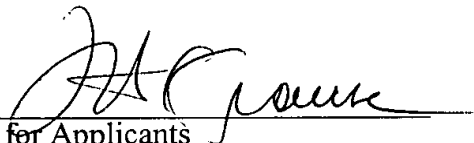
For example, in the Muramatsu reference, the principal rejecting reference, there is disclosed an image sensor in which a pixel array includes a plurality of pixel blocks, and the same peripheral circuits are arranged along opposite sides of each pixel block. That is, Muramatsu only teaches that the peripheral circuit is a scanning circuit of the pixel block. That reference therefore fails to teach that processing circuits which perform predetermined signal processing are arranged along the opposite sides of the pixel array, respectively in addition to the scanning circuit. Further, the reference of Muramatsu also fails to teach a common amplifier provided in common to the pixel blocks.

Similarly, the other cited references all fail to disclose an arrangement of a single semiconductor substrate having a pixel array, a scanning circuit therefor, a common amplifier, and a plurality of processing circuits as recited in the new independent Claim 24.

For these reasons, Applicants believe that new Claim 24-27 are allowable, and the issuance of a formal Notice Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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